

List of knowledge deities

A **knowledge deity** is a deity in mythology associated with knowledge, wisdom, or intelligence.

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A statue of Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom



Odin sacrificing himself to gain knowledge of the runes.

Ancient Egyptian mythology

- Neith, goddess sometimes associated with wisdom
- Thoth, originally a moon deity, later became the god of knowledge and wisdom and the scribe of the gods
- Sia, the deification of wisdom

- Isis, goddess of wisdom, magic and kingship. She was said to be "more clever than a million gods".
- Seshat, goddess of wisdom, knowledge, and writing. Scribe of the gods. Credited with the invention of writing and the alphabet. Later demoted to consort of Thoth.^[1]

Armenian mythology

- Anahit, goddess of wisdom^[2]
- Tir, the god of written language, schooling, rhetoric, wisdom, and the arts^[3]

Aztec mythology

- Quetzalcoatl, god of the winds, art, culture, and wisdom, as well as the patron god of learning and knowledge. ^[4]

Caribbean mythology

- Papa Legba, loa of speech, communication, understanding, and guardian of crossroads^[5]

Celtic mythology

- Ogma, a figure from Irish and Scottish mythology, said to have invented the Ogham alphabet^[6]

Chinese mythology

- Wenchang Wang, the god of literature and scholarship
- Kui Xing, God of examinations
- Zhuyu Xingjun, God of examination successes
- Guan Yu, God of military exams
- Lu Dongbin, God of daoist inner alchemy knowledge
- Laozi, God of wisdom
- Bao Zheng, Star of literature
- Manjushri, the bodhisattva of wisdom^{[7][8]}

Etruscan mythology

- Menrva, goddess of wisdom, war, weaving, and medicine^[9]

Greek mythology

- Apollo, god of artistic knowledge, music, education, and youth
- Athena, Olympian goddess of wisdom, knowledge, civilization, weaving, and war strategy
- Coeus, Titan of the inquisitive mind, his name meaning "query" or "questioning". He is the grandfather of Apollo.
- Hermes, god of cunning and eloquence

- Metis, the Titan associated most closely with wisdom and the mother of Athena, whose name in Ancient Greek described a combination of wisdom and cunning.^{[10][11]}
- Peitho, goddess of persuasion, rhetorics, seduction, and charming speech

Hindu mythology

- Saraswati, goddess of knowledge, creativity and speech
- Ganesha, god of wisdom, luck and new beginnings and patron of arts and sciences
- Murugan, god of war, victory, and knowledge and patron of Thamizh culture
- Brihaspati, Guru of the Devas, bestower of knowledge and eloquence
- Shukra, Guru of the Asuras, bestower of knowledge
- Chitragupta, god of justice and knowledge and the scribe of the gods
- Dakshinamurthy, aspect of the god Shiva as the guru of sages and bestower of knowledge
- Hayagriva, god of knowledge and wisdom and an aspect of Vishnu
- Gayatri, form of Saraswati and the goddess of hymns
- Savitri, another form of Saraswati and goddess of wisdom^{[12][13]}



A Saraswati statue in a park.

Hittite mythology

- A'as, god of wisdom
- Kamrusepa^{[14][15]}

Japanese mythology

- Benzaiten, a Japanese form of Saraswati, goddess of everything that flows: water, words, speech, eloquence, music and by extension, knowledge.
- Fukurokuju, god of wisdom and longevity
- Kuebiko, scarecrow god of wisdom and agriculture
- Omoikane, Shinto god of wisdom and intelligence
- Tenjin, god of scholarship^{[16][17]}

Middle Eastern mythology

- Al-Kutbay, Nabataean god of knowledge and writing
- Enki, Sumerian god of intelligence, crafts, mischief, water, and creation
- Nabu, Babylonian god of wisdom and writing
- Ninimma, a minor Mesopotamian goddess regarded as the scribe and scholar of Enlil
- Nisaba, Sumerian goddess of writing, learning, and the harvest^[18]

Muisca mythology

- Bochica, messenger god of knowledge^[19]

Lakota mythology

- Hnašká, Lakota frog spirit of pezuota (sacred medicine)
- Hunún̄pa, Lakota bear spirit of wóksape (Lakota concept of sacred knowledge), lesser spirit of knowledge
- Iktómi, Lakota spider spirit of wóksape and trickery, greater knowledge spirit
- Kssa, Oglala spirit of knowledge, sometimes considered Iktómi before being stripped of his title
- Mathó, Lakota mischievous healer spirit, taught the Lakota to fish
- Ptesán̄wín/White buffalo calf woman, Lakota prophetess, often conflated with Wohpe
- Wiyóhiyan̄pa, Lakota wind spirit of the east, oversees new beginnings and knowledge
- Whapiya/Wóhpe, Lakota spirit of knowledge, wishes, dreams, visions, prophecy and the wife of Okaga the south wind
- Zuzéča, Lakota snake spirit of hidden knowledge and lies

Norse mythology

- Mimir, god of wisdom
- Odin, god of wisdom who nevertheless relentlessly keeps searching for more knowledge; associated with the runes
- Frigg, she is said to know the future, but never tells. The three following goddesses may be hypostases of her.
- Gefjon, goddess associated with plowing, foreknowledge, and virginity.
- Sága, goddess of wisdom
- Snotra, goddess associated with wisdom
- Vör, goddess associated with wisdom^[20]
- Numerous minor characters in Norse mythology are said to be very wise, though there's often no instance of them demonstrating this supposed wisdom:
 - Dwarfs, particularly Alviss, whose name means "all-wise". Thor keeps him from marrying his daughter by challenging him to a wisdom contest that lasts all night. He's turned to stone by the rising sun.
 - Elfs possibly
 - Heimdallr
 - Kvasir
 - Mimir
 - Tyr
 - Utgard-Loki, while not outright stated to be wise, he's notable for being the only giant to be cleverer than the gods and getting to escape with his life
 - Vafthrudnir, a wise jotunn Odin seeks out to challenge to a wisdom contest^[21]
 - the Vanir in general^[22]



Wodan and Frea by Emil Doepler.

Persian mythology

- Anahita, goddess of wisdom
- Ahura Mazda, Zoroastrian god of light, benevolence, creation, truth, and perfect wisdom
- Chista, goddess of wisdom and knowledge, she leads the mortals to the right way in life and the afterlife; she is also the goddess of religion in Zoroastrian mythology.^[23]

Polynesian mythology

- Anulap, god of magic and knowledge
- Eijebong^[24]

Roman mythology

- Egeria, a water nymph who gives wisdom and prophecy in return for libations of water or milk at her sacred grove
- Fabulinus, the God who teaches children to speak
- Minerva, goddess of wisdom and crafts, the Roman equivalent of Athena
- Providentia, goddess of forethought
- Neptune, the god of the sea and freshwater, is said to have all the knowledge of water.^[25]



Anahita Vessel, 300-500 AD, Sasanian, Iran, silver and gilt – Cleveland Museum of Art – DSC08130

Slavic mythology

- Gamayun, symbol of knowledge and wisdom

Turco-Mongol mythology

- Mergen, deity of abundance and wisdom. Mergen symbolizes intelligence and thought.^[26]

West African mythology

- Anansi, the spider trickster and spirit of all stories, best known from Akan and Ashanti folklore; according to some tales, also creator of the sun, moon and stars, and teacher of agriculture to humans^[27]
- Orunmila, god of wisdom, knowledge, and divination^[28]

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This page was last edited on 19 March 2022, at 18:54 (UTC).

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